

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF AVON NAVIGATION TRUST AND THE LOWER AVON NAVIGATION TRUST LIMITED 2022.

Minutes of the 56th Annual General Meeting of the Avon Navigation Trust Ltd and the Minutes of the 71th Annual General Meeting of the Lower Avon Navigation Trust Limited held at Ecgwins Club High Street Evesham on 25th June 2022.

The Chairman, Jack Hegarty opened the meeting at 11:30 and welcomed all present. The notice convening the meeting was read.

1. JH proposed a minute silence in respect of David Burlingham who passed away 27th May 2022

2. **APOLOGIES.** 48 apologies were received.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM.

The minutes of the 2021 AGM held on 13th November 2021 were circulated prior to the meeting. Jack Hegarty proposed that they are accepted and a vote was taken and accepted in favour of the minutes presented. There were no matters arising.

4. ANT and LANT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31 December 2021 & 31st March 2022.

Clive Matthews presented the accounts for the year ending 31st December 2021. Noted that it had been a good year and achieved a surplus however it could have been £93k better due to a significant bad debt suffered by the collapse of R & W Rail who were a framework contractor for Network Rail. ANT provided waterway safety services in relation to major restoration works to Fladbury Railway Bridge. The bad debt is reflected in the annual accounts. Income has bounced back with licence sales increased from previous year and short-term visitor licences are back to normal levels. Commercial leisure licences have returned to normal levels after running smaller fleets the previous year. Licence fees were frozen at the previous year prices. Noted that 50% of income to run the Trust is from licences and contract works provided 40% of income which finances the major works and improvements to the infrastructure.

Expenditure is higher than the previous year due to increased activity and materials in relation to contract works and providing for the bad debt. The reserves policy level is £360k minimum to £768k maximum. Inflation for the current year is beginning to be felt with increased costs and the change in legislation for using red diesel in plant and equipment.

Activities: The beginning of 2021 the Trust had to manage through the COVID-19 variant with satellite office and engineering working. Volunteering was suspended during lockdown and restarted with controls. Avon Lock at Tewkesbury was run by a team of volunteers throughout the two years of the pandemic. Recruitment of new volunteers was paused. The Trustees agreed a new strategy for the recruitment of volunteers with the objectives to recruit for identifiable jobs and train accordingly. Health and Safety structure has been reviewed and a new system put in place. A flow chart was presented of the new structure, and the new volunteer portal presented.

Presentation of pictures of works carried out in the period:

- Flood recovery works.
- Repairs and refurbishment of Luddington Lock lower gates involving de-watering of the lock.
- Two new River Watch camera installations at Stratford upon Avon and Pershore Great Bridge.
- Support of TV filming involving Pam Eyres and Toyah Wilcox.
- Unveiling of the Transport Trust Red Wheel at Tewkesbury Big Weekend.

- Repurposing of the Stratford Waterway Information Centre to a mobile Welcome Centre based at Tewkesbury.
- Attended the opening of the new Shakespeare Marina.

The new 'AVON' project was presented.

ANT Squad

Volunteer Training Centre

Outdoor Evesham River Activity Partnerships

Neptune Project.

This will involve the use of delivery partners to provide opportunities for young people aged 16 to 24 to take part in activities and volunteering on the River Avon and nurture the volunteers and river users of the future. Restoration of Evesham Lock house to repurpose into a Volunteer Training Centre. This will be funded with grants and use of restricted reserves from an insurance claim for flood damage sustained in 2007. The Neptune project is the refurbishment and repurposing of the historic barge 'Neptune'. Pictures of the finished conversion were presented which was funded by various grants.

Clive Matthews concluded by thanking all staff and volunteers.

Michael Hodges proposed to adopt the report of Council and Financial Statements of Lower Avon Navigation Trust and Avon Navigation Trust are accepted, seconded by Paul Cronin and vote carried in favour.

5. TO ELECT MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT OF ANT AND

LANT: ANT Council standing for re-election: Michael Hodges, Vaughan Welch, Richard Borley, Penny Clover. Proposed that all are re-elected en bloc by Geoff Crane and seconded by Steve Myers. Vote carried in favour.

7. TO APPOINT ACCOUNTANTS: Messrs. Bowker Stevens and Co expressed their willingness to be re-appointed. Proposed Michael Hodges, seconded Mark Lyons. Vote carried.

8. TO TRANSACT ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Paul Cronin wished to thank ANT Council for the Award made to him at the last AGM that he was unable to attend and to Jack Hegarty for meeting up with him later to present the award. This was acknowledged by Jack Hegarty. Paul also asked if the staff lockkeepers at Tewkesbury are advising visiting boaters to leave both lock gates open when leaving locks. He has noticed recently that many were leaving just one open. Clive Matthews responded to the question to say that we had not received any other reports of these issues and will check with the lockkeepers.

Adrian Bailey said he had had difficulty with the new dedicated volunteer phone number not being answered. Clive Matthews responded to the comment and said that currently the number goes directly to his mobile phone and any missed calls are recorded and there is a voice mail. However no missed calls have been received or messages left unanswered. He will check with the service provider's log. Adrian Bailey said he didn't leave any messages.

No further questions.

Jack Hegarty thanked all for attending the AGM and closed the meeting.

Meeting closed at 13.25